

Alumni Association Vice President Reports: As Seasons Pass – We Must Refresh Our Institutional Memory

This is a good time to review the status of the Beta Upsilon Chapter as well of the Beta Upsilon Association. There is a strong rhythm to the academic calendar that many of us fall away from in our later lives.

Each fall, the Beta Chapter maintains the house during Work Week and rushes a new class of freshmen. It has been well documented, of course, how rush has changed over the past several years from the approach that many of us were used to. With freshmen no longer living in fraternities, the "rushing" process can last all of freshman year as the chapter has to not only attract new members, but also must build strong bonds with them to ensure that they move into the house at the start of sophomore year. In addition, the pledge program has been modified to accommodate the freshmen living in the dormitories and is shorter-to both conform to today's overall fraternity standards (three months or less) and to allow a separate spring pledge class to be brought into the house.

The Beta House has been adapting to these changes. This year's rush seems to

have been the best organized in years, with many activities taking place on campus to attract more freshmen and, also, to raise Beta's visibility at MIT. Beta successfully executed a full pledge program during the fall semester, with initiation taking place right before Thanksgiving. A full spring rush was organized, for the first time, to start right after IAP. After some of the trials and tribulations of the past few years, the chapter appears to be heading onto the right track. The actives are very aware that they need to increase their numbers to build up the size of the chapter in order for us to remain viable for the long-term.

One thing that became clear over the past year is the loss of institutional memory at the chapter. We were all used to best practices being passed on from one officer to the next, year after year. Many of these practices are out of date or have been lost during the time when the chapter was not performing optimally. The Alumni Association is working with the chapter to recreate and recapture these, particularly in the areas of rush, financial management, and facilities management. The chapter is working on a constitution that will describe the expectations and obligations of each member. In addition, the Alumni Association is defining our expectations for the chapter overall, including participation, responsiveness, accountability, professionalism, and recruitment. By working together, we hope to recreate and improve the best practices for the chapter and institutionalize them with today's actives.

I encourage all of you to stop by the Beta House when you are next in Boston and to contact me by e-mail at **mike_feinstein@yahoo.com** if you have any questions about the Beta House or the Alumni Association. In particular, we welcome new volunteers from any era and any geography who can provide assistance and guidance to the chapter. Thanks for your continuing support of Beta Theta Pi at MIT.

Yours in __kai__,

Mike Feinstein '82 Vice President, Beta Upsilon Association



Salute! From r. to l, Daniel Hochbaum '09 emphasizes a point to Victor Sinow '08, while Jacob Stultz '07 stays "on the lookout for enemies."

Beta Upsilon Family Tree

Steve Bathurst '03 has begun a project trying to build a family tree for the MIT Beta Chapter. He wants to capture everyone's pledge father and pledge sons, with a goal of linking everyone together as far back as he can. If you have a minute, **please send an e-mail to Steve at bathurst@mit.edu**

with the name of your pledge father and any pledge sons you had. If you want to pass along any other anecdotes that you recall about the pledge-father pledge-son process, that would be great, too. When it's complete, we'll post the family tree on our web site, http://www.beta-mit.org.

Thanks for your participation!

A Word From The Beta Upsilon President: Meeting Objectives And Expectations

This term represents a hallmark of progress for the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi. With eight outstanding new pledges, and a re-commitment to the ritual and traditions of our institution, the house appears to be full of new life, enthusiasm, and general cheer.

To kick off the year, the chapter participated in an "Objectives and Expectations" retreat at MIT's Endicott House. There, we discussed our individual visions of the fraternity and molded our thoughts together into attainable communal goals. The retreat culminated with the decision to create a chapter-specific Constitution that will explain our values and enumerate the expectations of every initiated member of the Beta Upsilon Chapter. We have formed a committee to draft the initial version of the Constitution, which will be subsequently ratified or modified upon its completion.

Additionally, the house has decided to pursue the qualifications necessary to receive a Sisson Award at next year's convention. 1993 was the last year in which our chapter received an award, and our hope is to showcase the newfound strength of the Beta Upsilon Chapter and cultivate an atmosphere that promotes awareness of general fraternity awards and pride in our common achievements.

Pride, however, should not be limited to our accomplishments as a house. Each of our brothers is involved with various activities outside of Beta, all of which deserve our attention and praise. To illustrate a few: Benjamin Wasserman '07, 1090, is the president of the Undergraduate Society for Biological Engineers; Jacob Muhleman '08, 1104, is an essential member of the MIT varsity sailing team, helping propel the team to its rank of 8th in the nation; Lyel Resner '07, 1103, is extremely active with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program of the Massachusetts Bay, and he is applying for the highly selective Ful-

bright Scholarship; the list continues.

On a general level, the house is bursting with positive energy and untapped potential. Using this spirit, we have devoted ourselves to rushing a spring pledge class of at least six members, effectively increasing the 2010 graduating class of

the Beta Upsilon Chapter from eight to 14, a number that has not recently been attainable. With lofty, yet feasible objectives in hand, we Betas press forward, aiming to better ourselves, our community, and our interactions with the world.

> Your in __kai__, Victor Sinow '08, 1097 President, Beta Upsilon Chapter Beta Theta Pi Fraternity



Escaping the confines of MIT, Betas, freshmen, and rush girls enjoy a day at the beach.

Nice Ball! Beta Bowling Builds Brotherhood

Contemplating this year's intramural bowling season I am left reflecting on how our team has managed to climb to the top of the heap and on the Betas of past years who have contributed to the betterment of our team. The Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT offered up two of the eight four-person teams in this year's MIT IM bowling league. The Beta Alpha team featured

Terrence McKenna '07 (Captain), Victor Sinow '08, Jacob Stultz '07, and Jon "Okie" Williams '07, while the Beta Beta team was made up of Jake Bernstein '07, Gavin Lund '10, John Williams '10, and Rajiv Eranki '10.

These eight brothers represent the dedicated and hard-working men that have pledged all of their Saturday

mornings to our cause. (Unlike John Goodman's character in *The Big Lebowski*, we *do* "roll on *Shabbos.*") In addition to these eight there are many others among us, actives and alumni alike, who are more than willing to step in and support the team if one of our members cannot make it. What is interesting to note is the support from our new pledge class as a quarter of the team are pledges. These outstanding young men make it over to the house at the ungodly hour of 11:30 a.m. every Saturday morning.

During the season, Beta Alpha held several records. Victor Sinow had the league high average of 159.5 with our esteemed alumnus, Jeffrey Bridgham '04, at a close second with an average of 147.5. Victor also has the highest scoring series so far as well as a high scratch (without handicap) score of 171. The rest of team alpha can consistently bowl above 130.

This outstanding showing did not come about overnight. The class of 2004 had an outstanding bowling team in their day and gave me the inspiration and drive I have now to take my team to the free pizza and t-shirts that the champions get at the end of the season. Matt Brigham, Jeffrey Bridgham, Bert Lue, and Jason Mueller are bowlers among bowlers and showed me many of their tricks when I was only a pledge. Now whenever they are in town we go to Boston Bowl and bowl a few games for old time's sake. I invite any alumni with an interest in bowling to join me for a fun game of pins when he is in town. And Monday features half-price bowling and appetizers!

Terrence McKenna '07



Betas celebrate two of the new pledges on a rainy night in Killian Court.

Beta Recruitment Confidential

Beta kicked off the year with a very successful rush, recruiting eight great pledges and meeting many more candidates for our spring pledge class. We had a new ensemble of activities, including last fall's rush, revamping our usual repertoire and broadening our reach into cultural and academic events.

Our poetry slam was a smash with brothers and freshmen alike. We hosted the event on MIT's campus, brought in **Michael Brown**, a well known slam poet, to host the event, and drew extremely talented contestants from around the area, some even hailing from New York and Rhode Island. **Stephen Steger '08**, a brother and director of **Imobilare**, MIT's foremost breakdancing group, led a Betahosted breakdancing show on the Student Center's steps on Registration Day, drawing a large and excited crowd for the

show and a barbecue. He even took the time to teach beginners a few of the basics. Freshmen revved up for our well-attended Go-Karting event, held at F1, Boston's largest track. These weren't just any old go karts, either; with 30-plus miles-per-hour top speeds, racers slid through turns like professional drivers.

For a change of pace, we invited the "Father of Artificial Intelligence," **MIT's**

own Marvin Minsky, to our house for an informal dinner and talk about the exciting future of his field. Freshmen got a rare

opportunity to meet this illustrious luminary in such an intimate setting, and were thrilled

> to be able talk with him afterward. On the last day of rush, we wound down an exciting and varied week with a relaxing day at the house of Dan Bercovici '04 house at Cape Cod, playing basketball and resting at the beach. All in all, we had a successful and wide-ranging rush, garnering not only a wonderful and diverse pledge class, but increased visibility on campus and around the area.

> > Rajiv Eranki '07 Rush Chair



Published regularly by the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at MIT. News contributions, address changes, and photos are welcome and should be sent to Beta Theta Pi at MIT, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 390528, Cambridge, MA 02139-0006. Photos will be returned after use in the newsletter.

Meet The Bylaws

Marvin Minsky

The Brothers of the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Beta Theta Pi have organized a Kai Committee with the mission of reviewing and evaluating the current bylaws of the chapter, as well as constructing a formal Constitution of Beta's ideals. The committee is composed of one active undergraduate brother from each year, elected within their pledge class, and is headed by Vice President Steven Russo '08. The delegates are Jacob Stultz '07, Alex Bakst '08, and Ryan Luersen '09.

The Kai Committee meets once a week. Our prerogative is fairly straightforward. The bylaws of the chapter have not been updated in some time. As a result, many of the items have become outdated or unofficially rejected for the good of the chapter. Our small group meets to discuss these particular bylaws and what changes should be made. We then present our decisions to the house as a whole for discussion at chapter

meetings. Similarly, it is this committee's responsibility to write up a "Constitution of Beta." This differs from the bylaws in that it represents our ideals and beliefs as a brotherhood. It is less a set of rules or suggestions to live by than a representation of what we, as Betas, stand for.

The Kai Committee is on course to have a solid, comprehensive revision of the bylaws and a draft of our $B\Theta\Pi$ Beta Upsilon Chapter Constitution by the start of the spring semester.

> Steve Russo '08 Vice President



Jake Bernstein '07 spent the summer learning kung fu with Shaolin monks. Here he stops for a rest and some scenery while trekking 10 kilometers along the Great Wall.

Beta House In Great Shape

During the summer of 2006, the house corporation made a sizable capital investment in the physical property at 120 Bay State Road, the Beta Annex. The focused renovations of the Annex targeted fire safety, major maintenance improvements, and cosmetic updates to increase rental income from MIT-approved boarders. Fire safety improvements made during the renovation include the installation of a state-of-the-art fire alarm system, the construction of a fire egress partition wall on the second-floor landing, reconstruction of the back stairwell between the basement and the first floor, and leveling the concrete floor between basement front and the back stairwell. Our major maintenance improvements consist of a core electrical artery retrofit, an in-wall communication network to each room, and a complete roof repair with updates to the weather drainage system, parapet, main stairwell skylight, and fourth front exterior wall. Cosmetic improvements to the interior of the Annex include painting the 12 uppermost rooms, refinishing the floors both in the second and third front rooms and on the first three landings, a shower installation in the second-floor bathroom, and finally, a remodeled kitchenette with a new counter top, sink, cabinets and refrigerator.

The renovations to the Annex this past summer are part of a longterm plan to improve the quality of life at Beta. Depending on Annex rental income over the 2006-2007 school year, the house corporation plans to make a second capital investment focused on improving the use of common areas, remodeling the bathrooms, and creating new educational environments conducive to studying. Many thanks are in order for the dedicated efforts of Herman Marshall, Mike Feinstein, Frank Leibly, Christian Hamer, and Phil LaFond who facilitated the renovations of the Annex this summer. Thanks to the alumni for your continued support of our fine chapter and our pursuit to make life at 119 and 120 Bay State Road as memorable and meaningful as we once experienced.

> Raul-David "Retro" Poblano '01 Resident Advisor, House Corporation, Alumni House Manager

Beta Brotherhood Grows

In the house and around the world, MIT Betas are joining together to make each other's lives more comfortable, enjoyable, exciting, and interesting. While we remain focused on the things we need to do to make the house run smoothly—rushing a great pledge class, articulating our goals in a Constitution, and keeping the main house and annex in good shape—we never forget why we became Betas in the first place: brotherhood.

You might see it in the lounge at 3:00 a.m. on a weeknight: four or five brothers working on problem sets, helping each other with difficult material, and keeping the atmosphere positive and energetic, long after each individual would have sought the refuge of a warm bed. You can see it at intramural soccer and ice hockey games, where a strong local alumni presence bolsters our strength, spirit, and connections to the past. And you can see it in the house meetings, which contain equal parts serious business (necessary to keep the house functioning), and jokes, laughter, and friendly banter, equally necessary to help keep the house as a place we are gladly willing to devote our time to maintain. Each house meeting ends with nominations for Beta of the Week, where brothers take turns telling stories of another's accomplishments over the last week.

It is very telling how Betas choose to spend their precious time away from MIT. Over the summer, Joe Goldbeck '07 and Terrence McKenna '07, interned in Berlin and Munich, respectively, and traveled together for a week to the Greek islands. Joe also stayed in Belgium with Dodd Gray, who stayed at Beta over campus preview weekend and is now a member of the '10 pledge class. Jon Williams '07, Zach Rich '07, and Daniel Briggs '07 took a road trip and visited the Gamma Phi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi at the University of Oklahoma. Victor Sinow '08, Terrence McKenna '07, Jacob Bernstein '07, John Herrera '08, Jake Muhleman '08, and Adam Paxson '09 made plans for sailing a boat from Antigua around the Caribbean during January break. And this is only a partial list of recent and future great Beta adventures.

I know that my memories of Beta will be some of my most cherished. Many Betas of the last fifteen years have fond memories of Jim D. Cook, a staple of the kitchen and a great purveyor of food and stories. This is, sadly, his last year cooking for the house. We anticipate a number of alumni to come to the Christmas party to share in the food and friendship they remember, and create some new stories in the process.

Jacob Bernstein '07



From l. to r., Beta Brother Zach Rich '07 searches for just the right words of wisdom to pass along to Robert Boyd '10.

Alumni Association President Reports: New Developments Address Safety, Best Practices, And Licensing

Over the last year, I have become even more active in the Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG). I am now the vice chairman of the AILG board, so it's my responsibility to carry out the accreditation program that is required by MIT.

Accreditation involves reviews of all MIT living groups primarily to ensure safe and healthy housing. The AILG has a secondary goal to use reviews to spread knowledge of so-called "best practices" and to share experiences about problems that may be common to living groups. I would like to thank Phil LaFond '98 and Christian Hamer '94 for supporting this process by joining review teams. We've learned a lot in these reviews; there are many programs used in other living groups that could be effectively implemented at Beta to improve living conditions and recruitment.

The AILG has successfully implemented the Safety, Licensing and Inspection (SLI) program. The SLI program helps us keep track of inspections and lodging licenses for all MIT independent living groups. The SLI program has helped us ensure that our licenses are obtained in a timely fashion. We have had no difficulties passing inspections for both houses since the program was implemented.

It is important to have up-to-date licenses because the Boston Police Department has been entering MIT fraternities when there is any evidence of a party inside. The police do not need warrants and can inspect houses on an impromptu basis on behalf of the Boston Licensing Board. While they have always had this right, it was rarely exercised until recently, due to unfortunate incidents relating to spontaneous celebrations when the Red Sox won the World Series and when the Patriots won the Super Bowl. A representative from MIT campus police told the AILG at a recent meeting that the fraternities haven't behaved much worse than during the 70s and 80s. We hope that this increased attention will abate but it may take a few years. So, all MIT fraternities have to be very careful. Some fraternities renewed their interest in revived MIT study of relocating living groups to MITowned property in Cambridge.

Dean of Student Life Larry Benedict recently announced to the AILG that MIT will soon start increasing each entering freshman class by about 100 per year. This will increase the total undergraduate population by 400 students. It is likely that MIT will continue to admit equal numbers of men and women, giving 200 more men available for fraternities over the next four years, which should help the entire fraternity system, including Beta, replenish ranks after freshmen were required to live on campus.

The AILG provides members of the Independent Residence Development Fund (IRDF) committee that makes recommendations on loans and grants. Financially, we are taking advantage of IRDF grants that reimburse us for computer equipment purchases and certain operating costs. In addition, we have received substantial IRDF construction grants that somewhat offset our IRDF loans. IRDF funds depend on MIT alumni contributions; we encourage any of you who contribute to MIT to allocate your donations to IRDF. All-in-all, the environment for fraternities at MIT is improving!

Yours in __kai__,

Herman Marshall '78 Beta Upsilon Association President

BETA THETA PI REUNION



The 40th anniversary of the Beta Upsilon Chapter, held June 14, 1953, at the Beta House on 119 Bay State Road.
From I. to r., seated in front: David L. Vogel '54, Thomas B. Lacy '48, John W. Lacy '42, Oswald Stewart '39. Front row, seated: Mrs. Rossman, Mrs. Tompkins, Mrs. Elliot, Mrs. Sjostrom, Mrs. John W. Lacy, Mrs. Stanton, Clarence I. Newton (Wesleyan '02), Mrs. Chittick, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Kenneth S. Johnson, Mrs. Maxwell, Miss Genevieve Scully, Miss Florence Scully. Second Row, standing: Norman G. Tompkins '37, Edwin F. Rossman '18, Theodore Elliott '22, Dana C. Huntington '21, Oliver I. Bardes '21, Frank P. Scully '15, Mrs. Rollie White, Mrs. Scully, Mrs. Peck, Miss Joan Howlett, Mrs. Howlett, Miss Gail Scully, Mrs. Harrington, Frank D. Harrington '49, Harry F. Davis '48, James R. Maxwell '50, Clive W. Lacy '15, Robert J. Hull '23, Kenneth S. Johnson '15, William R. McEwen '15.
Back row: Warren T. Ferguson '22, Waldo F. Pike '15, George Farnell '41, Everett S. Coldwell '15, Weare Howlett '15, C. Yardley Chittick '22, B. Alden Cushman '24, Henry B. duPont III '55, David A. Meeker '24, Mrs. Breymann. John B. Breymann '44, Robert D. Peck '44, Booker Stanfield, Robert L. Sjostrom '20, John C. Zimmer '55, Eugene D. Richter '53, Robert A. MacDonaldd '56, Kirkland Day '17, William J. O'Hearn '10, Avery H. Stanton '25, Abbot L. Johnson '22, William R. McEwen Jr. '48.



Donn W. Barber '42 reports, "I spent an afternoon with Bill Brett '47 and his wife, Gisela, in the apartment near Central Park. The weather and conversation were both great." Stay in touch with Donn at 1207 Greenbriar Ln., West Grove, PA 19390; send e-mail to evdoba@aol.com.

William H. Brett '47 writes, "As a result of your recent newsletter I contacted **Donn Barber '42** who visited us for a day in New York last May. We had lunch and a walk in Central Park before he went back to Pennsylvania. Now I'm looking for Lee **Benson '43** And **Tom McEvoy '47** and others from the mid-'40s." Bill lives at 340 E 64th St., #33B, New York, NY 10021; e-mail to williambrett@aol.com. [Editor's note: reach Lee at capttry1st@aol.com; Tom at tom@hankfries.com.]

Ronald L. McKay '54 lives at 5811 Kentland Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91367. He writes, "Much information about me and my family appear in the Class of 1954 Notes in the fall 2006 edition of *Technology Review*. I encourage all Beta I knew from the classes to '50-'56 to read the notes and send me their news. I truly look forward to responses and will reply." Reach Ron by e-mail at smckay8@earthlink.net.

Alfred E. Wechsler '55 is still working part time at TIAX, LLC, a company formed from the technology and innovation business of Arthur D. Little, Inc. He enjoys traveling, visiting grandchildren in California, Washington, and Texas. He hopes to retire, "one of these days." Stay in touch at 7 Wainwright Rd., #77, Winchester, MA 01890; e-mail to aewechsler@earthlink.net.

Ward D. Halverson '56 lives at 25 Hutchinson St., Cambridge, MA 02138. He sends in regrets that he missed his 50th reunion in 2006. Send a note by e-mail to wdhalverson@aol.com.

Karl M. Duff '57, 485, writes, "My wife, Gretchen, and I aimed to complete the last 300 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail last summer (nearly 3,000 miles in total). We take two or three teens per year in a mentor-

ing relationship. I've been more active in defense of constitutional protections of property—a big problem here in the northwest as governments keep taking more and more! I was in touch with Creighton Bellinger '58 last year and also Sam "Dick" McLaughlin '58 who, sadly, has since passed away. I'm also operating a homeless ministry in eastern Washington called "Restoration Ranch." Our society is in bad shape. Yours in __kai__, Karl." Stay in touch at 6112 Wynn Jones Rd. E, Port Orchard, WA 98366; kduff@ix.netcom.com.

Edwin C. Bell '58 has a new address: 625 Biltmore Way, #804, Coral Gables, FL 33134; e-mail to edwincbell@aol.com.

Samuel R. Fryer Jr. '59 has moved to 6408 Meade Dr., Colleyville, TX 76034; send e-mail to srfryer@verizon.net.

Alexander Ross '61 writes, "I continue to stay active participating on three theaterdirector boards, on a local art and garden center board, and also VP of our local Chevron retirees chapter. I manage to continue acting in an assortment of plays in the Bay Area. Tinka and I completed a dive trip to the Solomon Islands and have dive trips scheduled for Hawaii, the Seychelles, and Philippines in 2007. I accomplished a walk across England from the North Sea to The Irish Sea and plan to do it again (in the reverse direction). It was an enjoyable 15day hike through the Yorkshire dales and the lake district; I stopped in a mix of pubs, bed & breakfasts, and farm houses for the overnight stays. I'd love to hear from my classmates and other brothers at MIT." Stay in touch with Alex at 89 Dominican Dr., San Rafael, CA 94901; send e-mail to alexross123@comcast.net.

James W. Giffin '64 has a new address: 5756 Owens Dr., #107, Pleasanton, CA 94588; gifdad@msn.com.

Fred L. Luconi '64 reports, "I now winter in Naples, Florida, where my neighbor is also an MIT grad. Her friend, Catherine, visiting from Massachusetts, thought her neighbor, **Ray Poor '31**, of Newbury,



might be the oldest living MIT Beta. Ray celebrates his 100th birthday on February 17, 2007. He's still in terrific health; he does Tai Chi, plays chess, and is the full-time care giver to his wife (95), who has Parkinson's. He also plans to do his own taxes this year. His only problem is macular degeneration—so he doesn't read much anymore." Reach Fred at 7999 Vizcaya Way, Bay Colony, Naples, FL 34108; luconi@alum.mit.edu. [Editor's note: The oldest Beta alumnus is actually Yardley Chittick '22, who turned 106 last year.]

Roger W. Lacy '79 writes, "Dear Herman and Beta Brothers: Thank you for your continued support for the fraternity! You may have heard my unfortunate news, that my dad, Brother John Lacy '42, passed away in September 2006. So did my uncle, Thomas Lacy '48 in August. Beta Theta Pi has long been an important part of the Lacy family. Other Betas included William Lacy '43 and our patriarch, Clive Lacy '15. In clearing out items from the house of my father, John, I found a photo from the 40th anniversary of the chapter. (See picture on page five.) As times change and all fraternities evolve, it's great to hear that Beta remains heavily involved with MIT." Roger has a new address: 1002 Bala Farms Dr., West Chester, PA 19382; send e-mail to lacyhome@yahoo.com.

James W. Casey '96 has moved to 19 Shirley Rd., Medford, MA 02155; jwcasey@alum.mit.edu.

Jeffrey M. Aristoff '04 has a new address: 60 Wadsworth St., # 20D, Cambridge, MA 02142; send e-mail to astuff@gmail.com.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

John W. Lacy '42 *on September 23, 2006*

Thomas A. Bush Jr. '44 on September 13, 2006

Walter E. Borden III '45 on August 9, 2006

Thomas B. Lacy '48 in August 2006

Samuel Richard McLaughlin '58 in 2006